

broke through ; and thus renounced his allegiance, forfeited his peace, exposed himself to the just anger of his righteous sovereign, and involved himself and his posterity in misery and ruin. Sentence of condemnation was passed upon him, and expulsion from paradise ensued. But *God, who is rich in mercy*, looked with pity on his wretched and guilty creature, devised a plan for his restoration to happiness and purity, without any compromise of his dignity or impeachment of his rectitude. A Saviour was announced ; and *in due time Christ died for the ungodly*, that *all who believe in him should not perish*, as for their disobedience they deserved to do, but receive the pardon of their sins, and *have eternal life*.

Law, in itself, knows nothing of mercy. Its jurisdiction is separate and independent. It makes no provision for the breach of its own enactments. It is absolute and inflexible in its demands. The decrees of human legislation are, indeed, sometimes repealed or their infraction connived at, because they are found to be inefficient, unjust, or impracticable ; but the law of God is *holy, and just, and good*, a transcript of his own eternal rectitude ; and therefore to pass over a transgression of it, without an adequate recompence of some sort, would be in itself an infringement of equity. As obedience is due to the great governor of the universe, to disobey is to rob him of his right, and to tolerate disobedience is to encourage rebellion, and disturb the equity of the divine administration. *Sin is a transgression of the law* ; and every sinner, if he offend but in one point, sets at nought the divine authority,